

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information management method in an information  
processing system including a network capable for  
5 dealing with information such as images, music, voice  
and documents in large volumes at high speeds,  
comprising the steps of:

when connecting a removable storage medium having a  
program storage area storing programs and an information  
10 storage area storing information, to an information  
processing unit such as a computer on the network,

selectively displaying header thumb-nail images  
corresponding to commercial information such as images,  
music, voice and documents stored by said storage medium  
15 in the information storage area thereof by operating  
programs stored by said storage medium in the program  
storage area thereof by said information processing  
unit; and

calling and displaying of corresponding commercial  
20 information, and/or purchase of information  
corresponding to said commercial information, and/or  
purchase of information corresponding to said commercial  
information, and/or connection to, or registration of, a  
service provider on the network corresponding to said  
25 commercial information, in accordance with selection and  
instruction of thumb-nail images desired by the operator.

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3. An information management method according to claim 1,  
15 wherein said method comprises, when connecting to the  
service provider or registration thereof corresponding  
to said commercial information, downloading the  
commercial information of said service provider into the  
information storage area of said storage medium, and  
20 registering a header thumb-nail image corresponding to  
said commercial information in the information storage  
area of said storage medium.

4. An information management method according to claim 1,  
25 comprising the steps of further storing information  
prepared by the operator such as images, music, voice

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10 6. An information management method according to claim 5,  
wherein said animation includes video information, and  
said voice includes music information.

8. An information management method according to claim 7,  
wherein said guide information includes sight-seeing  
25 guide, shopping guide, book guide, education guide,  
employment guide, housing guide, event guide, marriage

9. An information processing system including a network, capable of processing information of images, voice and documents in large volumes at high speeds, comprising:

wherein said information processing unit comprises,  
when said storage medium is inserted,

service starting means for calling and displaying of the corresponding commercial information, and/or purchase of information corresponding to said commercial information, and/or connection to, or registration of, a service provider on the network corresponding to said commercial information, in accordance with selection and instruction of a desired thumb-nail image by the operator.

5 comprises:

means for downloading the purchased information into the information storage area of said storage medium when the purchased information can be downloaded; and

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means for registering the header thumb-nail image corresponding to said commercial information in the information storage area of said storage medium.

12. An information processing system according to claim  
9, wherein said storage medium further stores  
information prepared by the operator such as images,  
5 music, voice and documents in the information storage  
area thereof;

said display means selectively displays the header  
thumb-nail image corresponding to said information; and

said service starting means reads out and displays  
10 said information like obtaining said commercial  
information in accordance with selection and instruction  
of the desired thumb-nail image by the operator.

13. A removable storage medium having a storage section  
15 comprising a program storage area storing programs and  
an information storage area storing information, and an  
electronic circuit section mounting electronic circuits  
processing information, storing:

commercial information such as images, music, voice  
20 and documents, and thumb-nail information corresponding  
to said commercial information in said information  
storage area; and a program storage area, storing:

a first program module which selectively displays a  
header thumb-nail image corresponding to the commercial  
25 information such as images, music, voice and documents  
stored by said storage medium in the information storage

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area thereof, through operation of a program stored by said storage medium in the program storage area thereof by said information processing unit such as a computer; and

5           a second program module for calling and displaying of commercial information, and/or purchase of information corresponding to said commercial information, and/or connection to, or registration of, a service provider on the network corresponding to said commercial  
10 information, in accordance with selection and instruction of a thumb-nail image desired by the operator,

in said program storage area.

15   14. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said second program module comprises, when information corresponding to said commercial information is purchased, the steps of downloading the purchased information in the information storage area of said  
20 storage medium, and registering a header thumb-nail image corresponding to said downloaded information in the information storage area of said storage medium.

15   15. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein, when connection to, or registration of, a service provider corresponding to said commercial information

has been done, said second program module comprises the steps of downloading the commercial information of said service provider into the information storage area of said storage medium, and registering a header thumb-nail  
5 image corresponding to said commercial information in the information storage area of said storage medium.

16. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein the information storage area of said storage medium further  
10 stores information such as images, music, voice and documents prepared by an operator; and said first program module comprises the step of selectively displaying the header thumb-nail image corresponding to said information, and said second program module  
15 comprises the step of reading out and displaying said information like said commercial information in accordance with selection and instruction of a thumb-nail image desired by the operator.

20 17. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said storage medium has a special read-only area and a writable area.

18. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said  
25 program storage area further stores a bootstrap program and a system program which is read out by said bootstrap



program and controls said first and second program modules.

19. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said  
5 storage medium is an optical disk.

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